

DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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CONTENTS	PAGE
■ Harris Election Affirmed by Bishops (89013)	
■ PB Fund Announces Lenten Focus (89014)	5
■ Consultation Discusses Women and Men in Community (89015)	7
■ Episcopal Church Looks to the Middle East (89016)	9
■ Inaugural Homily (89017)	11
■ Correction (89018)	14
■ The Church in Brief (89019)	15



Harris Election Affirmed by Bishops

DPS 89013

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- On January 24, Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning made an historic statement: "We have received in my office the necessary majority of consents from bishops with jurisdiction to the election and consecration of the Rev. Barbara C. Harris as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts. The consent process...is completed." [Note to editors: The full text of the Presiding Bishop's statement on the affirmation of the Harris election follows this article.]

With this statement, Browning signaled the end of a fourmonth process that started with Harris's election by the Diocese of
Massachusetts on September 24, 1988, continued with debate,
discussion, and voting by diocesan standing committees across the
Church (where the candidate won a majority of votes), and ended with
the conclusive vote of bishops with jurisdiction -- the majority
needed for affirmation having been achieved on January 24. With the
voice of the Church heard, there was no further impediment to the
scheduled consecration on February 11 at Hynes Auditorium in Boston.

Because of the historic significance of the Harris election, the Church's traditional affirmation process by standing committees and diocesan bishops was highlighted publicly for the first time in many years. However, the process was in no way unusual or different in Harris's case. The only difference lay in the attention given by media to the process and the negative comment focused on the process by some factions in the Church opposed to the ordination of women in general and to the episcopal ordination of Harris in particular. The thrust of Browning's message on Harris's affirmation is that her consecration should signal the beginning of healing and great understanding in the Church: "...It is my continued hope that the

DPS 89013/2

future days will be characterized by prayer, sensitivity, and discernment of God's will for us and the call to new life."

The Presiding Bishop will be the chief consecrator in Boston on February 11. In addition to Massachusetts Diocesan David Johnson, co-consecrators will include Bishop John T. Walker of Washington, D.C., Bishop Allen L. Bartlett of Pennsylvania, and Bishop Lyman Ogilby, retired Bishop of Pennsylvania.

When Johnson heard that his new Suffragan had received the necessary consents for affirmation he reacted hopefully and positively: "This is the first time in the history of our Church that the full breadth of ministry is coming into focus. I hope there is a way for those who find it difficult to accept the reality of a woman in the episcopate to experience it for themselves.

On January 25, the Most Rev. Robert Eames, Archbishop of Armagh and the chairman of the "Eames Commission," the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Communion and Women in the Episcopate, issued a statement noting the affirmation and stating the intention of his commission to continue their examination of issues hinging on women's ordination when they meet in the United States, at Garden City in the Diocese of Long Island, in March. In reiterating the charge of Lambeth to his commission -- "to produce guidelines which will enable Provinces which differ to live together in the 'highest possible degree of communion'" -- Eames added his own hope that, in light of the reality of the Harris consecration, "the spirit of Lambeth will be invoked to the full -- words like 'respect' and 'courtesy' have a very special meaning at this time."

24 January 1989

Statement from the Presiding Bishop

We have received in my office the necessary majority of consents from bishops with jurisdiction to the election and consecration of the Rev. Barbara C. Harris as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts. The consent process, as provided by Title III, Canon 21 of the Constitution and Canons, is completed. Therefore, I have taken order for the ordination and consecration for Saturday, February 11, 1989, in Boston, Massachusetts, and will serve as Chief Consecrator. Specific plans for the liturgy will be coordinated by the Diocese of Massachusetts with my office.

This consecration will be both a momentous and a solemn occasion, and a time of great joy and celebration. The Rev. Barbara Harris will take her place among the bishops of the Church, and we will celebrate that new ministry with her and the people of Massachusetts. We will celebrate as well this particular recognition of the gifts of ordained women.

At the election of Barbara Harris on September 24, 1988, I asked the Church to offer in prayer our joys, our anxiety, and our commitment to unity. As the Presiding Bishop, I have been grateful to know that those prayers were offered throughout the Anglican Communion during the consent process. That process, with the participation of the standing committees of the dioceses and the bishops with jurisdiction, has also involved thoughtful discussion in this spirit of prayer.

I also asked the Church to be sensitive to the convictions and feelings of others. I have felt that sensitivity being expressed by the majority of the Church.

I do want to note that there have been some exceptions to the prevailing spirit of prayerful discussion and sensitivity. Unfortunately, these exceptions received disproportionate attention. We know that we have heard some angry words, some mean-spirited words, and some threatening words. I have found this both inappropriate to the process and diminishing to the sense of how we as the Church should conduct ourselves.

These days have not been easy, and I have had the opportunity to reflect more than once that growth does not come without pain. I believe that we, the Episcopal Church, are together in our growth and in the attendant struggles, and in our valuing of both our unity and our diversity.

As I personally rejoice with the Diocese of Massachusetts and Barbara Harris, it is my continued hope that the future days will be characterized by prayer, sensitivity, and discernment of God's will for us and the call to new life.

PB Fund Announces Lenten Focus

DPS 89014

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- The Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief has chosen the One Great Hour of Sharing theme "Rejoice in the Service of Love" as its Lenten focus. This recaptures both a heritage and a 40-year-old ecumenical tradition.

Between 1947 and 1949, Presiding Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, was so successful in raising funds over the radio to help World War II refugees that it is possible that it was he who inspired the ecumenical venture that came to be called the One Great Hour of Sharing. The churches that participate in this program are American Baptist, Church of the Brethren, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, United Methodist, Presbyterian, and United Church of Christ.

All seven communions work together in developing the promotional and educational material for this great hour, the ingathering. This year's theme is "Rejoice in the Service of Love." The materials include a brochure with specific examples of relief and training given to flood victims in India and a poster of two Indian girls carrying water. For children, there is an elephant poster, a sticker, a teacher's guide with clear instructions for participation by children, and an Indian fable.

Packets of this material have been sent to every parish in the United States so that the rectors can order enough for the fourth Sunday in Lent, March 5, the day of the ingathering. The same date is observed by all seven churches. There is also a bulletin insert, specifically designed for Episcopalians, that can be copied and put in all the pews.

The money raised will go to the Presiding Bishop's Fund and will be used for programs that include food production, primary health care, literacy and job training, water resource development, animal husbandry, appropriate technology, and land reclamation.

DPS 89014/2

Materials may be ordered by writing to the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Tel.: (1-800) 334-7626.

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Consultation Discusses Women and Men in Community DPS 89015

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- A consultation of 35 Church leaders gathered at the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, California, on January 13-16 to study new ways of women and men working together more effectively in the Church.

The consultation, "Empowering Our Different Voices: A New Vision of Women and Men in Community," was convened under the joint auspices of two units of the Episcopal Church Center, the Office for Ministry Development and Women in Mission and Ministry (WIMM).

John Docker, head of the Office for Ministry Development, in commenting on the consultation, said, "Ministry in the Church takes place to support and authenticate ministry in daily life. Therefore, the Office of Ministry Development, working with the National Task Force on Total Ministry, is deeply interested in empowering women and men to work together in new ways. That is why the Office for Ministry Development, in partnership with Women in Mission and Ministry, sponsored this consultation."

Ann Smith, director of the WIMM unit of the Episcopal Church Center, said of the consultation, "There was such a need for it. We are excited because we have been heard -- our new ideas for new structures, for being and working together. People listened and said 'We want to explore these things with you.'"

The consultation's focus on listening in order to hear could be summed up in one of the resources used (Carol Gilligan's "In a Different Voice"), which said, "If men hadn't listened in the past it wasn't simply a matter of being narrow-minded or biased. They simply didn't know what to do with these (female) voices. They did not fit."

Participants represented a broad range of Episcopal leaders and educators, including clergy and lay leadership of different ethnic backgrounds, cultures, ages, and life styles.



DPS 89015/2

The original idea for a consultation -- first styled simply as "a dialogue with peers" -- went back to 1984, Docker reported, "and even earlier, when the need was identified by Fran Young in the later '60's." A purpose statement was formed in 1986 setting as a goal the development of a new, holistic vision that would encompass societal change.

The Vallombrosa consultation set a number of goals, including the intention of bringing together female and male leaders to talk and listen to each other; the intention of examining roles and relationships that keep female and male leaders from reaching full potential; and the intention of developing transformational strategies for mutual empowerment.

The differences in equating female and male perceptions of the realities of language, racism, and sexuality and the differences in power and powerlessness within existing structures in the Church and in society today were explored both in small groups and in plenary sessions. For example, "isms" and prejudices were defined ("an 'ism' is a bias or prejudice with power behind it"). The benchmarks of mutuality in a given community were sketched as being "nonhierarchical, inclusive, mentoring, and having respect for persons, not positions." Insights for decision making were spelled out to include indentifying priorities in your community, and then "claiming your own power and the community to which you are accountable."

There were also experiential exercises at the consultation, such as "the Blues and the Greens" -- which prompted one facilitator, Jean Haldane, to observe, "I never realized what an incredible amount of energy it takes to support mediocre leadership!"

Facilitators for the consultation, in addition to Docker, Smith, and Haldane, were Gloria Brown of the Episcopal Church Center staff, David Selzer, University of Minnesota Episcopal Center, and Sandy Stewart of Rockville, Maryland.



Episcopal Church Looks to the Middle East DPS 89016

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- In recent years, bonds between the Episcopal Church of the United States and the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East have grown stronger, and with this growth has been an increasing knowledge and understanding of a shared life as Christian communities in the context of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Personal ties between the primates of the two Churches, Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning of the United States and Bishop President Samir Kafity, Bishop of Jerusalem and Primate of the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East, have helped the growth of knowledge and understanding between the two Churches.

This year's Good Friday Offering made by the Church in the United States is destined for Jerusalem and the Middle East [See DPS 89009]; in preparation for the Offering, Episcopalians in the United States, young and old, will be learning new things about the lives — and the dedication — of their brothers and sisters in a part of the world that is both rich in relgious tradition and troubled by political and economic strife.

The fact that a geographical area is beset by external difficulties does not mean that its religious life is doomed to stagnation. Often, the opposite is true. In April 1988, All Saints Episcopal Cathedral, a large and striking contemporary church building, was dedicated in Cairo, Egypt. Egypt is one of the dioceses of the Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. The new cathedral, whose innovative design is based on the lotus flower, the traditional Egyptian symbol of immortality, was quickly seen as epitomizing the new spirit of life in Middle Eastern Anglicanism.

The dedication of All Saints Cathedral was a significant event for both the Diocese of Egypt and for the whole Episcopal province in the Middle East. Bishop Kafity was present as well as Bishop G.A.



DPS 89016/2

Malik of Egypt, Egyptian Coptic leaders (the Coptic Church is the most ancient of Egypt's Christian bodies), and Egyptian government officials.

(89016) All Saints Episcopal Cathedral in Cairo, Egypt, with its unique lotus blossom design, rises in the midst of the busy city. Cairo's original Episcopal cathedral was destroyed to make way for a new bridge across the Nile.

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[Note to Editors: Enclosed you will find the complete text of the homily delivered by Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, at the interfaith service of prayer and thanksgiving held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, January 22. The complete text was not available for inclusion in the January 19 DPS mailing. Editors wishing to place the homily in context for their readers should refer to DPS89002, which describes the prayer service in some detail.]

INAUGURATION SERVICE

DPS 89017

THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
The Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning
January 22, 1989

In his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln set the moral course for a nation that needed to be put back together after a blood and hate-filled schism. The concluding words of that address are forever engraved on our national soul: "with malice toward none; with charity for all," he said, "with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right...."

Nowhere is God's right made clearer than it was many hundreds of years before Lincoln, on a mountaintop, where a great moral teacher set forth his values and bequeathed to us a fundamental moral authority. Jesus of Nazareth, in what we know as the Beatitudes, calls those who hear his words to become blessed ones, to receive a blessing through their actions. Blessed are those who mourn, he told them, blessed are those who are meek, those who desire to do what God requires, those who are merciful to others, those who are pure in heart, those who work for peace, those who are spiritually poor, those who are persecuted, because they do what God requires.

Jesus' message was that the way we treat each other is the basis for judging our lives now and hereafter. This teaching of charity and compassion toward each other, the same charity exalted by Lincoln, would usher in a new way for humans to live together, to serve the common good, and also to assure us of God's eternal blessing.



Abraham Lincoln was blessed. The trials of this great man, who was haunted by periods of melancholy, who was beset by personal domestic trials, who presided over a divided and war-torn nation, demonstrated his humanity. His religious, moral leadership in the face of these trials showed his unmistakable nobility.

Moral leadership is grounded in the inner disposition to love and compassion. This inner disposition, nurtured by the Holy Writings and prayer, enables a leader to reach out to tap and release the deep well of justice and compassion in a nation's people. This leadership makes conscious that which lies unconscious in the soul of a nation. From this leadership flows healing and unity of purpose. From this leadership emerges national greatness of will and purpose in the exercise of justice and mercy. From this leadership can come the reconciliation of the peoples of the earth. When the moral leader shows his inner disposition of love and compassion through his words and actions, the people recognize, acclaim, and accept his authority. In fact, they hunger for that leadership, and as they are satisfied, they are reconciled one to another.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus helps us to understand what it is to be "blessed." He helps all people to accept the attributes of a nation that is blessed by God:

To accept the fact that we are powerless without God's help, asserting not our own will but God's will, which we have made our own. As Jesus prayed, "your kingdom come, your will be done."

To accept the fact that those who mourn are those who, having chosen to follow God's will over all others, are freed from the allegiance and bonds of earthly principalities and powers. "A person cannot serve two masters."

To accept the fact that the meek are those who, having tasted God's liberating will, do not enslave or oppress others. "Your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and give praise to your Father in heaven."

To accept the fact that the peace-makers are those who, having been reconciled with God, seek reconciliation with others and love their enemies. "You have heard that it was said, 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' But now I tell you: do not take revenge.... But now I tell you: love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...."

In short, those who are blessed are those who not only hear the words of the Sermon on the Mount but also live them. Those who practice the moral prescription of the Beatitudes accept the authority of God and can pray, as did Jesus, your will be done. These people, these moral



DPS 89017/3 leaders, are blessed because they can discern what is good and bad, true and false, corrupt and incorruptible. They are blessed because they have internalized the will of God.

The Hebrew Bible records these last words of David:

The God of Israel has spoken, the rock of Israel has said to me: when one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God, he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth upon a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth. (II Sam. 23:3-4)

I am certain that this is what Lincoln was feeling when he concluded his inaugural address with the appeal to his listeners, and to those who read his words to this day, "to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

After his address, a woman from Massachusetts wrote President Lincoln a letter of support and encouragement. She ended the letter with this paragraph. I will end my words on this special day with her words:

May God help you in the future as he has helped you in the past and a people's love and gratitude will be but a small portion of your exceeding great reward.



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Correction DPS 89018

Note to Editors: DPS wishes to apologize for an error in DPS89009. The error involves the inclusion of the Bishop of Virginia (Peter James Lee) as a member, and chair, of the Committee of Review considering charges brought against the Rt. Rev. John S. Spong of Newark. It was actually the Rt. Rev. C. Charles Vaché, Bishop of Southern Virginia, who served on, and chaired, the Committee of Review that dismissed charges against Spong.



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THE CHURCH IN BRIEF

EFM Launches Spanish Language Sessions

DPS 89019

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- On January 9-11, eight persons from across the United States met on the campus of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, to take part in the first Spanish language training session for mentors in the Education for Ministry (EFM) program. EFM is a theological extension learning program of the University of the South's School of Theology. It currently enrolls 4,700 people in the United States, in addition to study groups in six other countries.

Although hundreds of mentors have taught more than 16,000 people in the 15-year history of EFM, all of the instruction, and the textbooks, were in English until the January session in Austin. A second Spanish language training session is slated for California later this winter. Plans are also being developed for use of the program in Central America.

Funding from the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge enabled the translation of EFM textbooks into Spanish. The recently certified mentors will go on to use the new textbooks to lead EFM study groups in Texas, New Jersey, and California.

The Rev. Edward de Bary, the field director of EFM who attended the first Spanish language session in Austin, said the Seminary of the Southwest campus was the "logical site" for debut of the new program because Province VII's Center for Hispanic Ministries — the only such regional Hispanic office in the Episcopal Church — is located on the campus.

Church Women United Sponsor Philippine Study

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- From January 14 to January 31, 16 churchwomen from a number of denominations -- and from 15 states -- will be involved in "Causeway to the Philippines," a study program



sponsored by Church Women United (CWM). The goal of the women visiting the Philippines is to reach an understanding of the connections between women living in poverty in the United States and the political and economic situation of women in the Philippines.

The purpose of the two-week ecumenical study tour is for the participants to stand in solidarity with the women of the Philippines, to understand and value their struggle for self-determination, to support them in their struggle, and to learn from their commitment to the Gospel message of justice. Causeway is part of CWU's Assignment: Poverty of Women, a five-year effort to eliminate the root causes of the poverty of women and children.

CWU is a national ecumenical movement that brings together approximately a half million Protestant, Episcopal, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and other Christian women in a community of prayer, advocacy, and service. It represents a broad spectrum of religious tradition, race, age, economic status, and ethnic background.

Causeway's itinerary calls for a time in Manila, followed by field trips in small groups to outlying areas in central Luzon, Baguio, Cebu, Negros, and Davao. This itinerary will give the women participating the opportunity of living in Philippine homes and of meeting with grassroots organizing groups, Church groups, and government agencies. Priority time will be spent with women's groups working on a variety of economic and social issues -- among them, the effects of militarism on women and children, prostitution, and the role of women in the Church, in Philippine society, in the work force, and in the family. Each participant is expected to keep a diary and, upon her return to the United States, to communicate her experiences as widely as possible by speaking and writing.

Leadership for the Causeway is provided by members of the CWU national staff.



Memorial Fund Established for Gene White

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- A fund in memory of the Rev. Gene T. White has been established to provide a new organ for the Chapel of Christ the Lord at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City. White served on the staff of the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief and Episcopal Migration Ministries from 1980 until his death in November 1988.

Organizers of the fund are investigating options and designs with leading organ companies. Current plans call for an organ in the range of 20 to 25 thousand dollars. Three thousand dollars is already in hand.

Donations to the fund should be made payable to The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, designated for The Gene T. White Memorial Fund, and sent to the attention of Marion M. Dawson, The Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Biggs Dies in Ohio

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- Glenn A. Biggs, long associated with the Forward Movement Publications of the Episcopal Church and former treasurer of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, died in Cincinnati on December 16, 1988. He was 83.

Biggs had been associated with Forward Movement Publications since 1936. In that year he was appointed treasurer of the organization. In 1940 he was appointed to Forward Movement's executive committee and remained a member of that body until his death. The Rev. Dr. Charles Long, editor of Forward Movement, commenting on Biggs's career, said, "His 52 years of continuous service with the national publishing agency of the Episcopal Church must be a record."

Biggs, a retired vice president of the Fifth Third Bank of Cincinnati, served as treasurer of the Diocese of Southern Ohio from 1939 until retirement in 1967.



A long-time senior warden of St. Philip's Church in Cincinnati, he remained a communicant there until his death; his funeral was held at St. Philip's on December 19, 1988.

He is survived by his wife, Annie, by four children, and by eight grandchildren.

WACC Announces Philippines Congress

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- The World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) has announced a "communication congress with a difference," to be held in Manila, the Philippines, from October 15 to October 19.

The WACC was formed in 1975 to help churches and development-related groups worldwide use communication effectively in their work. The organization also works and campaigns for justice and for respect for human rights in communication whenever and wherever they are violated. With headquarters in London, WACC has over 500 members in some 60 countries.

Organizers of the Philippine Congress, which will not be limited to WACC members, have stated that it will not deal with technology or futurist projections to the 21st century; rather, it will deal with what they characterize as the "old-fashioned" subject of community.

The Congress is designed to explore what has happened to the sense of community in today's world and how most societies throughout the world have come to pursue individualistic goals at the expense of concern for their neighbors. It will also take into account the degree to which communication is to blame for the failing sense of community in the world and how, conversely, it might be used in a positive way to restore community. Special emphasis will be placed on how new communication technologies might contribute to future community building.

Keynote speakers at the congress will be the Rev. Allan Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the Rev.



Jose Miguez-Bonino, who is currently editing the <u>Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement</u>, and Pauline Webb, former head of religious broadcasting for the BBC World Service.

The five-day event includes field trips to allow participants to experience at first-hand some local media-based activities. These range from a community media system for rehabilitation of persons recovering from leprosy to theater and newsletter projects for urban workers.

Exceptionally low air fares have been offered as a special incentive to those who are considering going to the congress.

For further information about this WACC event, you may contact Ann Shakespeare, World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), 357 Kensington Lane, London SE11 5QY, England.

Lambeth Summary Released

NEW YORK (DPS, Jan. 26) -- On January 16 the Anglican Consultative Council in London announced the publication of <u>The Truth Shall Make You Free: The Lambeth Conference 1988.</u> This 345-page book contains the reports, resolutions, and pastoral letters from the bishops that document last summer's conference at Canterbury.

Four Section Reports (Mission and Ministry, Dogmatic and Pastoral Concerns, Ecumenical Relations, and Christianity and the Social Order) and the actual texts of the resolutions form the heart of the book. They are prefaced by a descriptive introduction to the contents and the text of the Archbishop of Canterbury's opening address, "The Nature of the Unity We Seek."

These key sections are followed by a list of participants and six appendices. The first four appendices are ecumenical responses to the Archbishop's address and the last two are important statements on "Instruments of Communion and Decision Making" and "Jews, Christians and Muslims." Finally, there is a reprint of pastoral letters. The book has a comprehensive index.

The book is now available from Church House Publishing, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ, England. The price is \$15.00. Please add \$3.54 for postage to the United States.